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**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals**
(Fifth session, 7-9 July 2003,
agenda item 7)

OTHER BUSINESS

Submitted by the Chairperson

Earlier this year, the UNEP Governing Council, in Decision 22/4, decided to further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management following an open, transparent and inclusive process. It included that all stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate and invited a range of international organizations to collaborate actively in the further development of the strategic approach.

The intent, at this early stage, is to bring all chemical management issues under one umbrella. The first PrepComm Meeting to further develop a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, co-hosted by UNEP, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, is scheduled for 10-14 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Given that classification is the cornerstone of a chemical management system, members of the Sub-Committee may want to consider providing input to the development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management.

In addition, the Sub-Committee itself, may want to closely follow the development of the Strategic Approach including contributing to the content of the Strategic Approach and participating in any meetings. The Sub-Committee may also wish to invite UNEP to the December 2003 Sub-Committee of Experts meeting to provide a progress report on the status of the work.

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